

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 COME-00 IGA-01

AID-05 /074 W

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O P 091541Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 886

DOD WASHDC PRIORITY

OSAF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

AFSC ANDREWS AFB

ASD WPAFB OH/YP

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1331

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS DA

SUBJ: F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT

REF: A. BRUSSELS 4082 B. COPENHAGEN 1302

1. THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS OUR BEST JUDGMENT OF THE
PRESENT STATE OF PLAY IN REGARD TO THE FIGHTERPLANE
REPLACEMENT, SUPPLEMENTING THE INFORMATION IN REF B.

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2. RE EXTENSION OF PRESENT MAY 15 DEADLINE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT AN EXTENSION HAS BEEN GRANTED UNTIL MAY 30 OR JUNE 2.

3. BEFORE DENMARK CAN COMMIT ITSELF TO PURCHASE A REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT (A) THE GOVERNMENT MUST MAKE A FORMAL RECOMMENDATION TO PARLIAMENT; AND (B) PARLIAMENT MUST GRANT APPROVAL. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY OTHER TECHNICALITIES WHICH WOULD PREVENT THE SPEEDY SIGNING, AFTER THIS APPROVAL, OR THE MOU AND LETTER OF INTENT.

4. BASICALLY, THE DANISH POSITION REMAINS THAT THE GOVERNMENT PREFERS THE F-16. THIS WAS STATED MOST RECENTLY ON MAY 5 BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE DEFENSE MINISTER. SINCE THE US OFFER IS BASED ON THE CONDITION THAT ALL FOUR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BUY THE SAME AIRCRAFT, THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT IT CANNOT MAKE A FORMAL RECOMMENDATION UNTIL IT IS SURE THAT THE CONSORTIUM HOLDS TOGETHER. IN OTHER WORDS, THE DANES MUST BE SURE THAT THE BELGIANS AND THE DUTCH WILL ALSO BUY THE F-16.

5. THERE APPEARS TO BE A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF AN F-16 PURCHASE. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW THE GOVERNMENT WILL FINALLY TACKLE THE PROBLEM POSED BY THE RADICALS WHO, WHILE INTEGRAL PARTNERS IN THE 1973-1977 DEFENSE AGREEMENT, REMAIN OPPOSED TO THE PURCHASE OF ANY PLANE AT THIS TIME. THE ANSWER TURNS ON A COMPLEX SET OF FACTORS INVOLVING JUDGEMENTS OF TIMING NEGOTIATIONS ON A POST-1977 DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND THE EFFECT OF A PURCHASE DECISION NOW ON CONTINUED RADICAL ADHERENCE TO THE PRESENT RPT PRESENT AGREEMENT. DANISH PROPONENTS OF THE F-16 HAVE BEEN CONFIDENT THAT, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO FINESSE THE RADICAL OPPOSITION TO THE PURCHASE.
DUNNIGAN

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